

A | receiving with the signed digital message a certificate of the sender, the certificate being signed using a private key of a certificate authority; validating the certificate using a public key of the certificate authority; and extracting the public key of the sender from the certificate for use in validating the signed digital message.

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 have been cancelled. Claims 35 and 36 have been added.

Support for claims 35 and 36 is found in Fig. 4 and page 16 of the specification.

Claims 35 and 36 correspond to claims 49 and 50 in the parent application Serial Number 09/133,706 in which claims 49 and 50 were group III of a 5-way restriction by the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of this application are now in a condition for allowance and favorable action thereon is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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